Library

A = 2 DEC 61
O.R.

WEARDALE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1960

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

No. 6 Health Area,
"Springfield",
WILLINGTON,
Crook, Co. Durham.

Tel: Willington 375.

P U B L I C H E A L T H O F F I C E R S

O F T H E C O U N C I L

****

Medical Officer of Health - G.A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector - R.G. SUDDICK, Cert. R.S.I. Lond.

****

BRITISH MUSEUM

WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1960

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the Public Health Department for the year 1960.

The birth rate has been lower than that of England and Wales and the death rate higher, a state of affairs which has been consistent over the past several years and hardly surprising in view of the ageing population and the lack of full industry in Weardale. Once again no cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis were recorded and no cases of Measles, Whooping Cough or the Dysenteries were notified. One case of Leptospira Icterohemorrhagàe (Wiel's disease) was discovered infected apparently from a dog bite. The root of the disease was not discovered although rodents were examined and found negative.

The major causes of death continued to be diseases of the heart and circulatory system.

Housing examinations were made from time to time and the necessary representations were made to your Council regarding repairs and rehousing.

Generally speaking the Public Health of the area has been satisfactory and no event of major importance has occurred. Your Public Health Inspector has compiled a seperate section for his report.

Grateful thanks are due to the Council and colleagues for their assistance during 1960.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

G.A. MACGREGOR.

CONDITION OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year) ...	8,790
Area (In Acres)	99,652
Number of inhabited houses	3,154
Rateable Value (Mid 1960)	£110,554
Product of Penny Rate	£438. 0. 2.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	106	51	55
Illegitimate	5	3	2
	111	54	57

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	12.62
General Birth Rate (England and Wales)	17.1

STILL BIRTHS	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	1	2

Rate per 1,000 (live and still	12.97

DEATHS	Total	Males	Females

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	18.88
Death Rate (England and Wales)	11.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal Causes ...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	3	1	2

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	1	-

Death Rate per Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	26.30
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	21.7
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate ...	18.86
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate ...	-
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	8.77
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	8.77
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	35.08
Deaths from Cancer	20
Deaths from Measles	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate Under 1 Year	Birth Rate
1955	14.14	52.63	10.50
1956	13.79	9.17	12.12
1957	15.00	7.93	14.11
1958	14.28	-	13.61
1959	14.24	27.77	12.20
1960	18.88	26.30	12.62

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted To Hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Pnuemonia	1	-	9
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	7	6	2

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diptheria and Scarlet Fever during the past six years.

YEAR	DIPTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1955	-	-	2	-
1956	-	-	2	-
1957	-	-	5	-
1958	-	-	1	-
1959	-	-	4	-
1960	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS - Total Number 166.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-
4. Diptheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and Parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	-
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lynphatic Neoplasms	1	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	2	-
17. Vascular lesions of Nervous System	16	18
18. Coronary Disease, angina	23	14
19. Hypertension with heart diseass	-	1
20. Other heart diseases	9	4
21. Other Circulatory diseases	10	7
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pnuemonia	6	3
24. Bronchitis	2	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	5	10
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
34. All other Accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	1	2
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
	91	75

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1960

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases for the year:

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25 - 44 yrs.	45 - 64 yrs.	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pnuemonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	3	1	1	2	-	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS

Year	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1955	4	1	5	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1956	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1957	4	1	5	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
1958	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
1959	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
1960	2	3	5	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	-	-

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1960

WATER SUPPLY

The water supplies in the Council's Area of supply were well maintained and no shortage arose.

Samples of water were taken, including 4 private supplies to farms in connection with grants by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and these were found to be satisfactory with the exception of two, where additonal works were asked to be done. These were subsequently tested and found to be in order.

No major works were carried out on the supplies in your area of supply.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Work was carried out by direct labour in connection with the new sewerage schemes at Bridge End, Frosterley, Eastgate and Rookhope and the laying of the sewers in each case was well advanced at the end of the year.

No major improvements to the existing sewage works in the district were carried out, but a septic tank was installed to take the drainage from the 8 dwellings at Railway Terrace, Stanhope to allow these properties to be converted to the water carriage system.

SANITARY ACCOMODATION

Further property owners took advantage of the Council's scheme, allowing a grant of half the cost up to a maximum of £12 for water closet conversions. During the year grants were paid involving nineteen properties.

Including conversions otherwise carried out and under the Housing Improvement Grants Scheme, the types of closets at the end of the year were:-

Water Closets	-	2287
Ash-Closets	-	592
Ashpit-Privies	-	150

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse was carried out satisfactorily by the three vehicles engaged on this work. The estimated weight of refuse removed was 5,470 tons, the vehicles covering 21,856 miles.

The main part of the refuse was disposed of at the tip at Lanehead Quarry, Crawleyside, and the remainder at Cowshill and Rookhope.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The whole time operator was engaged on the disinfestation of dwellings, business premises, farms, refuse tips and sewer fields. Treatment of the sewers was carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

Of properties inspected, treatment was carried out on 147 dwellings, 6 business premises and farms and 12 other properties (refuse tips, sewer fields). No major infestation was evident.

No charge is made for the treatment of private dwellings, but work on business premises and farms is recovereable on the basis of actual cost plus overhead expenses.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of the shops and food premises were carried out, the standard of these being generally satisfactory. Inspections were also carried out regarding registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of ice cream and making of sausages.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Detailed inspections and reports were made on the six private slaughter houses in the district in connection with the Slaughterhouses Act 1958 and following a meeting with the owners, 1st April, 1961 was agreed as the appointed day by which the premises would be brought up to the required standard.

Food was condemned as unfit for sale or human consumption on 37 instances (mainly tinned foods damaged in transit) and in each case the food was surrendered voluntarily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was necessary regarding smoke abatement, there being few industries of the type usually associated with smoke nuisance.

FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts and minor defects were remedied in two instances following informal action.

TENTS, VANS Etc.

Inspections were also carried out under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 and recommendations were made as to the standards required for the issue of site licences.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits undertaken by the Department during the year:-

Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	152
Housing (Overcrowding)	8
Sanitary Conveniences	77
Drainage	48
Water Supply	44
Food Premises	174
Shops Act	46
Dairies	6
Slaughter Houses	28
Tents, Vans, etc.	29
Factories and Workplaces	63
Keeping of Animals	4
Insanitary ashpits and receptacles	110
Offensive accumulations	2
Smoke Abatement	4
Prevention of Damage by Pests	95

NUISANCES ETC.

The following table gives the principal nuisances dealt with by means of notices:-

	No. of informal notices served	No. of Statutory notices served	Defects remedied
Public Health & Housing Acts	18	0	18
Sanitary Conveniences	8	0	8
Drainage	4	0	4
Food Premises	1	0	1
Slaughter Houses	6	0	0 (In progress)
Factories & Workplaces	2	0	2
Keeping of animals	1	0	1
Ashpits & receptacles	4	0	4

HOUSING

No new dwelling houses were erected by the Council during the year.

Work was in progress, under the Council's direct labour force, for the conversion of Bridge House Ireshopeburn into two dwelling houses.

Four new dwelling (one at Stanhope, two in the Harperley district and one at Frosterley) were erected by private individuals. Four new dwellings were in course of erection.

Interviews and inspections were carried out under the Standard Grant and Discretionary Grant Schemes. During the year 5 applications for the Standard Grant and 37 for the larger scheme were approved.

I have the honour to be,
Yours obediently,

R.G. SUDDICK.

BRITISH MUSEUM